



the armor of light. {13} Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. {14} But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. {14} For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. {15} For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. {16} For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. {17} Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. {18} Therefore comfort one another with these words."

(1 Thessalonians 5:2-6) "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. {3} For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. {4} But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. {5} You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. {6} Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober."

before the next day." Sure enough, that night it rained.

In Matthew 16, Jesus rebuked the religious leaders because they knew how to predict the weather (vv.2-3), but they failed to recognise the obvious signs that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Later in that same chapter He warned His hearers about the judgment to come (vv.24-28). He said it is foolish to grab the things of this present world and yet lose one's own soul for eternity (v.26).

Have you trusted Jesus as your personal Saviour? Have you turned to Him for refuge from the coming storm? If not, drop everything of this world. It's time to get ready. —MRD



*He surely is coming, I do not know when;
But this I am sure of, He's coming again;
So you'd better get ready, no time for delay,
For Jesus is coming, it may be today! —Smith*

Jesus may come any time, so we must be ready all the time.

Central Mountains Baptist Church

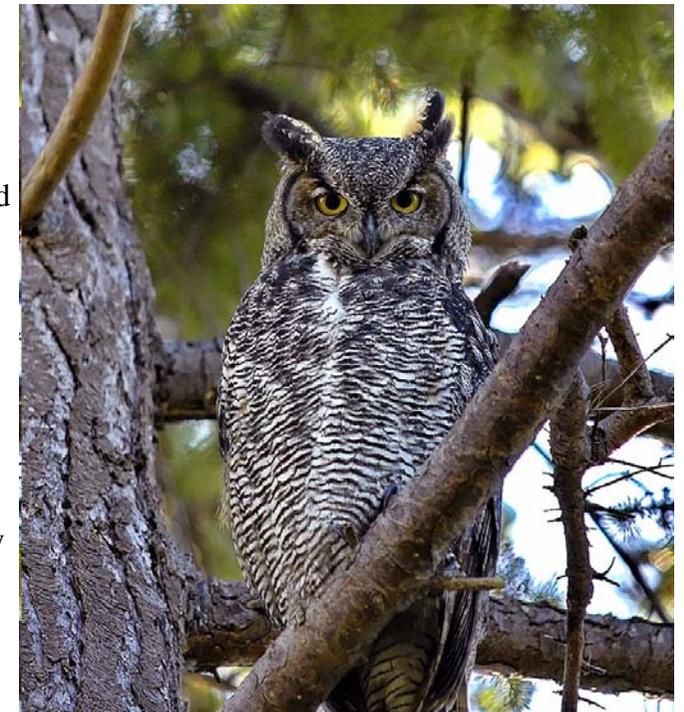
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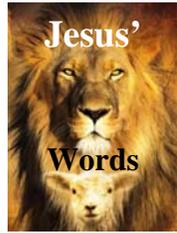
Are You Ready?

The Son of Man will come . . . , and then He will reward each according to his works. —Matthew 16:27

I love to fish. One summer a good friend invited me to go with him to Canada, where a guide would take us to a special place where there were supposed to be plenty of "big ones."

After a gruelling hike, finally we were drifting quietly in a canoe on a beautiful lake. Loons screamed their disapproval of our intrusion. A big black bear ambled out of the brush to the shore. And then an owl broke the silence with a long, "Whooo, whooo, whooooo." Our guide stopped paddling and said, "Did you hear that? The owl said, 'Drop everything and set up camp. Get ready for a storm.' When an owl hoots in the daytime, it means rain





Signs of the Times

(Mark 8:9-10) "Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away, **[10]** immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha."

Jesus teaching in Matthew 16:1-4 tells us of two crucial signs that we must not miss:



1. The signs of the _____, verses 1-3

(Ezekiel 37:1) "The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones."

(Ezekiel 37:11) "Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'"

(Ezekiel 37:2-10) "Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. {3} And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." {4} Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! {5} 'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. {6} "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.'" " {7} So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. {8} Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. **[9]** Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'" " {10} So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood



upon their feet, an exceedingly great army."

(Romans 11:25-27) "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. {26} And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; {27} For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.'"

2. The sign of _____, verse 4, 12:39-40

(Mark 8:12) "But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.'"

(Matthew 23:37) "'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!'"

(Luke 19:41) "Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,"

(Jeremiah 17:9) "'The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?'"

(Jonah 1:17) "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."

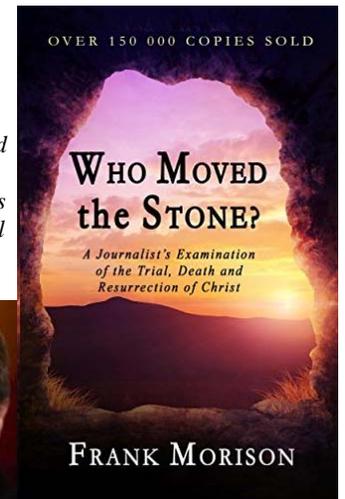
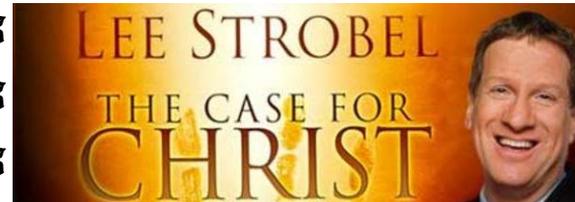
(Jonah 2:10) "So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land."

(Acts 2:22-25) "'Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know; {23} "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; {24} "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. {25} "For David says concerning Him: ..

(Acts 2:27) "For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."

(Acts 2:32) "'This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.'"

(1 Corinthians 15:3-8) "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, {4} and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, {5} and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. {6} After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. {7} After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. {8} Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."



(Romans 13:11-14) "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. {12} The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on